

amount of all pending claims. If, in order to reach such a settlement, it shall be considered necessary to name one or more commissions, the Dominican Government shall be represented on said commissions.

"Article Second—In order to enable the United States Government to render the assistance above mentioned, it shall take charge of the existing Dominican houses of refuge which are now under its control, shall name the employees necessary to their management and shall collect and take charge of all custom house receipts. These employees shall be subject to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Government may appoint in each of the custom houses an officer for the purpose of making an inspection on behalf of Dominican interests.

"Article Third—Out of the revenue which shall be collected in all the custom houses of the Republic the Government of the United States shall deliver to the Dominican Government a sum which shall not be less than 45 per cent. of the total amount collected, for the purpose of meeting the needs of the public service. The Dominican Government shall receive in monthly payments from the date of the taking possession of the custom houses, 50 per cent. of the total sum collected monthly in periods ending on the 15th, 25th and 28th of each month.

"Article Fourth—The Government of the United States will apply the 55 per cent. which it receives, for the purpose of paying the employees of all the custom houses.

"Article Fifth—The Dominican Government shall be responsible for the amortization and interest on the Dominican debt, foreign and domestic, in accordance with what is hereinbefore provided according as it shall be fixed and liquidated.

"Article Sixth—The Dominican Government shall be responsible for the amortization and interest on the Dominican debt, foreign and domestic, in accordance with what is hereinbefore provided according as it shall be fixed and liquidated.

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that they would not be allowed to collect their claims. This would be an unfortunate attitude for the Government of the United States to be forced to maintain at present. It cannot with propriety say that it will protect its own citizens and interests, on the one hand, and yet on the other hand refuse to acknowledge the obligations to protect their citizens and interests.

"SANTO DOMINGO'S ATTITUDE FAIR." "The republic of Santo Domingo has by this protocol wisely and patriotically accepted the responsibilities as well as the privileges of liberty and is showing with great good faith its purpose to pay all that it owes to the United States. It is simply performing its duty in a peaceful manner not only with the cordial acquiescence, but in accordance with the earnest request of the United States. It is the highest degree necessary that we should prove by our action that the world may trust in our good faith and may understand that this international duty will be performed by us within our own sphere, in the interest not merely of ourselves, but of all other nations.

"We are bound to show that we perform this duty in good faith and without any intention of aggrandizing ourselves at the expense of the weaker neighbors and those European Powers which may be brought into contact with this island. It is the highest degree necessary that we should prove by our action that the world may trust in our good faith and may understand that this international duty will be performed by us within our own sphere, in the interest not merely of ourselves, but of all other nations.

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Annual SPRING Opening of

KNOX HATS

In all the correct shapes and shades,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20.
452 Fifth Ave., cor. 40th St.
194 Fifth Ave., Fifth Avenue Hotel.
212 Broadway, cor Fulton St.

On sale at all agencies throughout the world on the same day.

THEATRE FIRE PANIC AVERTED

MANAGER DISMISSES AUDIENCE BEFORE RINGING ALARM.

Playgoers Were Doubtful When Told of Small Fire in Newark Theatre Building—House Is Empty With Little Excitement—Fire Soon Out.

An audience which filled the Newark Theatre in Newark last night at a performance of "Way Down East" was dismissed at the end of the first act after a small fire had been discovered in the cellar under the front end of the main entrance. No smoke had then appeared in the body of the house, but Fireman John R. Lavery of Engine 13, who had been on duty on the stage, was unable to control the little blaze, which had been started by electric light wires.

To avoid the certain panic which would have resulted from the arrival of engines and the entrance of firemen, Manager Leo Ottolengui insisted upon emptying the theatre before sending in the alarm. Fireman Lavery saw the force of the argument and kept a stream from a chemical extinguisher on the blaze until the curtain was rung down. The delay in summoning the engines caused no danger, as the fire was 100 feet from the main auditorium.

Soon as the act ended Manager Ottolengui stepped to the front of the stage, after having ordered all exits and fire escapes made ready, and calmly said to the audience:

"Smoke has been discovered in a distant part of the house. We have not been able to locate its origin. There is no danger, but as a precautionary measure I have decided to dismiss the audience by requesting you to leave quietly, but at once. There is plenty of time and no need of rushing or jamming. Seat coupons will be honored at other performances."

Only about half of the audience made a move to leave. The rest sat still or stood as if undecided. Manager Ottolengui was obliged to repeat the request, and even then the top gallery people would not quit their seats.

"We don't see no smoke; where is it?" some one shouted.

"Never mind where it is. I want you all to get out," yelled back Ottolengui in no uncertain tones. Then the gallery crowd made a rush and tore down several flights of stairs and into Beaver street. Some hats and coats were broken and torn, but no one was hurt. Meanwhile the crowd in the balcony left the house in orderly fashion by way of an emergency exit leading to Beaver street.

The larger part of the audience was on the main floor. It fled quickly, but without any unusual crushing or any great show of excitement, though two women fainted and had to be carried. Several others complained afterward of having forgotten furs and wraps in their hurry to get out.

Immediately after Ottolengui made the announcement of dismissal Fireman Lavery sent in an alarm from the private box in the rear of the house, where he was seated. The firemen had got into Market street a dozen engines, trucks and other fire apparatus dashed up to the theatre. This caused more excitement among the people in the street than they had shown in the theatre.

The fire caused less than \$50 damage and was easily extinguished. It was discovered by an employee of the house, who saw a puff of smoke coming through an open doorway leading into the main foyer from the cellar. He immediately closed the door, made his way to Manager Ottolengui's office and told him what he had seen.

When the members of the theatrical company were told of the fire and that there was little danger they merely got their belongings and left. In cases like this, in case it were necessary, the Newark Theatre is leased by Hyde & Behman. It is owned by the Harry Minerva estate.

CALLS THE PRESIDENT "TEDDY."

And Says He Talks More Than a Woman This Is Mrs. Blake, "Club Woman."

"Men are always accusing women of talking too much," said the President of the United States does more talking than any woman I ever knew," said Mrs. Lilla Devereux Blake in her toast to the Minerva Club at its seventh birthday party, given yesterday afternoon at the Waldorf-Astoria.

But Teddy really said something sensible the other day when he declared that there was no sex in crime and there is no sex in punishment. He should have said too, that there is no sex rights or privileges.

GEN. GRIPENBERG RETURNS.

One Report Is That He Brings Important News Bearing on Peace.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 16.—Gen. Gripenberg, who lately resigned the command of the second Manchurian army, arrived here at midnight. He received no official reception.

His arrival excited keen interest, and numerous reports are circulating regarding him. One says that he will return to Manchuria within forty-eight hours after he has had an audience of the czar.

Another declares that he brings a report that will have important influence in the direction of peace.

GEORGIANS DINE.

Hearing Incidentally Admiral Schley's Opinion of Arbitration.

At the Georgia Society's third annual dinner, given in the Waldorf-Astoria last evening, some 200 men and women, natives of that State, sat at the table and with them many invited guests. At the head table with President James E. Graybill were Admiral Schley, Chancellor Walter B. Hill of Georgia University, J. P. Hanson, Thomas W. Hardwick, Oscar S. Straus, Robert B. Roosevelt and Dr. William J. O'Sullivan.

Admiral Schley was called on to speak to the toast, "The Influence of War on History," a topic which he tackled from the beginning, giving honorable mention to Moses and Gideon as warriors and so on down to the Hague tribunal, which the Admiral approved. At the same time he urged the advisability of having your countrymen ready, sending the full and officially recognized advent of the millennium.

Chancellor Hill spoke on "Georgia's Progress," and J. P. Hanson on "Industrial Georgia."

HONORS TO JUDGE KELLEY.

Official Staff of the Long Island Railroad Gives Him a Dinner.

Judge William J. Kelley of Brooklyn was the guest at a dinner last night given in his honor by the official staff of the Long Island Railroad, of which he was for twenty-five years the general solicitor. He refused this post more than a year ago and was subsequently elected to the bench.

The occasion for the dinner, at which President Potter of the Long Island and presided, was the presentation to Judge Kelley of engrossed resolutions passed by the board of directors at the time of his resignation. The illness and death of the former president of the road, the late William H. Bagley, Jr., had caused the resignation of the dinner until last night. About twenty of Judge Kelley's old associates, including the heads of departments of the Long Island Railroad, were present.

THIRD PANEL DINES.

Gold Pencils for Souvenirs—McAdoo and Milburn Begged Off.

The third panel of the Sheriff's Jury held their annual dinner at the Hotel Astor last night. Among those who attended were Sheriff Erlanger, Corporation Counsel Delany, the Rev. T. C. Hall and Supreme Court Justices Thayer, Davis, Bueloff and Gildersleeve. Letters of regret were received from Police Commissioner McAdoo and John G. Milburn of the Committee of Nine.

There were 350 diners. E. S. O'Dwyer was chairman and toastmaster. Although several of the invited guests who were down for specialties disappointed, every one of the dinner had a jolly time. The souvenirs were gold pocket pencils.

SCARLET FEVER IN MT. VERNON.

60 Cases of the Disease Are Reported—Board of Health Takes Action.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Feb. 16.—The Board of Health today passed a resolution compelling all milk companies to sterilize and disinfect the bottles before filling them on account of the epidemic of scarlet fever here. In cases like this, a fine of \$10 will be imposed for each bottle used without being sterilized.

There are sixty-nine cases of scarlet fever in Mount Vernon at present, and the number of new cases are coming to the Board of Health at the rate of six to seven a day. New Rochelle and White Plains are also suffering from an epidemic of the same disease.

RUSSIAN OFFICERS' BAD FAITH

THREE FROM THE LENA SAID TO HAVE VIOLATED PAROLE.

Our Government Makes a Strong Protest and Will Demand Their Return as Prisoners—Men Under Suspicion Thought to Have Gone Home for Service.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The Government of the United States has called upon the Russian Government for an explanation of a serious breach of international good faith on the part of officers of the Russian cruiser Lena, which sought refuge in the harbor of San Francisco last September. The Lena was demasted and sent to the Mare Island Navy Yard, while her officers were paroled for the period of the war and her crew placed under the surveillance of Government officials. Through naval officers at Mare Island the authorities here have learned that three officers of the Lena, an engineer and two midshipmen, have broken their parole and are an investigation of the State Department has disclosed that they have returned to Russia and offered their services to their Government.

The dismantling of the Lena and her sequestration at Mare Island were requested by her commander, Capt. Berlinksky, and authorized by the President on Sept. 15. The Russian officers on parole are not to leave the United States during the hostilities between Russia and Japan.

The violation of their pledges by the engineer and the two midshipmen is regarded by the officials here as an exceedingly serious affair, and the State Department has made plain to Russia that the breach must be remedied.

The Russian officers still under discussion are understood that this Government will insist that the three recruits shall be returned to the custody of the United States naval authorities at Mare Island. In the event that they are returned they will, of course, be treated as prisoners and not as privileged persons.

The paroles of the officers and crew of the Lena were given to Captain (now Rear Admiral) Bowman H. McCalla, commanding the Mare Island Navy Yard, and to Rear Adm. A. Goodrich, commanding the Pacific squadron, who handled the situation in September for this Government. The Russian officers had considerable freedom, and leaves of absence from the Government reservation at Mare Island were frequent. The men who left were among those who were permitted to go to San Francisco. This was several weeks ago.

It is not known just how they went to Russia or whether or not they all went together. They carried with them their arms and uniforms. Admiral McCalla, who has been in charge of the crew, awaited their return and finally reported to the Navy Department that the three men had broken their parole.

This was three days ago, and the matter was immediately turned over to the State Department. Secretary Hay communicated with the Russian Government at once. In the meantime, from a source which has not been made public, it was learned by the State Department that the escaped officers had offered their services once more to the Russian Navy Department.

It was admitted in official circles to-night that this Government had notified Russia that the men had broken their paroles, and had asked if it were true that they had appeared in St. Petersburg.

As the United States Government is responsible for the men as long as they are in America and under parole, the only course open to this Government is formal request that the fugitives be immediately returned, unless Russia takes this action of her own volition.

Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, conferred at length to-day with Secretary Hay.

Soon after the Lena arrived in San Francisco the Japanese made it known to this Government, through Minister Takahara, that they would make an emphatic protest if the crew were allowed to return to Russia. It is quite likely that Japan will make another protest if the three officers are not returned to the United States.

President Roosevelt's order of Sept. 15, 1904, was specific in saying that the Lena was to be dismantled and that the crew were not to leave America until an understanding could be reached between Japan and Russia. Part of the order was as follows:

"That the Captain of the Lena give a written guarantee that the Lena shall not leave San Francisco until peace shall have been concluded; that the officers and crew shall be paroled not to leave San Francisco until some understanding may be reached between the United States and both the belligerents."

OTAMA WAITS RUSSIAN MOVE.

Rival Armies on the Siba—Jap Bombardment Begins.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—The Daily News tonight publishes a despatch from Richard Little, its correspondent at Mukden, reading as follows:

Kuropatkin and Oyama, with two immense armies, have been confronting each other along the Siba River for many months. The armies occupy an unbroken front of more than one hundred miles; stretching from the Liao River on the west to the Taisie River in the mountains on the east.

"On both sides the forces are in siege intrenchments and are at some points the prelude to a battle on a general scale. There has been only occasional firing since the repulse of the Russian right wing.

"The Japanese are confident that their lines cannot be pierced, and the Russians believe that their position is stronger than that of the Japanese. Each side is playing the other to come on.

"The weather is now. The temperature is above zero at noon and by the end of three weeks it is understood that the roads will thaw out and become avenues of bottomless mud. If either side contemplates a forward move it will probably begin it before the thaw comes.

"Oyama has begun to bombard the Russian lines with siege guns, probably brought from Port Arthur. Within the last two days these guns have been dropping 220 pound projectiles on Putuloff Hill, famous in the battle of the Siba River as Lone Tree Hill. This eminence is regarded as the key to the Russian position. It is five miles south of Kuenshan.

"A determined attack on this point, of which the present bombardment may be the prelude, would bring on a general engagement. There has been frequent hard fighting at Linshippu, two miles west of the railroad, where the advanced lines are close together.

"The Japanese are using their present opportunity of close contact with the Russians to send over quantities of publications containing sensational stories of rioting in Russia and also poetical descriptions of the delightful life Russian prisoners are having in Japan. Russian sentries are now ordered to fire on all Japanese parties which attempt under flag of truce to distribute this literature."

"THE SOCIETY WINE"

POL ROGER & Co.

DRY SPECIAL,
BRUT SPECIAL 1898.

The highest grade of that vintage shipped by Messrs. Pol Roger & Co. is now on sale at the leading Restaurants, Clubs and Wine Merchants in this city.

ANTHONY OECHS,
Sole Agent for U. S.

MOVE FOR RUSSIAN CABINET.

POWERS OF MINISTERS' COUNCIL MAY BE INCREASED.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 16.—All the members of the Council of Ministers, of whom M. de Witte is president, attended a meeting at Tarskoe-Selo to-day, in response to a summons from the czar to discuss the advisability of converting that unofficial, nebulous body, the Council, into a responsible advisory cabinet.

The czar presided. M. de Witte took a prominent part in the deliberations. Hitherto the Council has only met when it was directed from Kharkoff, where the president of the Council is now. It is now proposed that it meet regularly under the presidency of the czar or the president of the Council. The result of the conference is not known.

The step taken to-day is regarded as an important one toward some form of responsible government.

Governor General Trepoft, who retains his present office, has been appointed head of the police department of the empire, replacing Major-Gen. Rydzewsky, who shared in the policy of Prince Mirsky, ex-Minister of the Interior.

Heretofore the office has been an adjunct of that Ministry. Chief of Police Garaschovitch, from Kharkoff, has been appointed chief of the political police.

The strike movement in South Russia is being directed from Kharkoff, where the chiefs of the university, professional men, are all helping the political campaign of the workmen.

The state of unrest in the southern provinces is the worst ever known. The administrative anarchy is intensified by the refusal of the landholding classes to assist the officials. The former say:

"Let the Emperor summon the Zemsky Sobor; then we will help to restore order. Not otherwise."

The authorities very seldom attempt now to use troops.

The Tiflis district is in the hands of the proletariat. The newspapers of the capital are prevented from dealing with the conditions prevailing in the province.

Four-fifths of the professors paid off their employees to-day and closed indefinitely. Forty thousand workers are thus locked out. Strikers went to some of the previously closed factories and demanded their money.

At Landauer's factory, where they did not get their pay, they refused to quit and stayed at night on the premises. They acted in an orderly manner. The many factories have held a meeting and resolved to telegraph to M. Kokotoff, Minister of Finance, the particulars of the situation.

ODessa, Feb. 16.—Fourteen hundred university students have taken to the Government a signed protest refusing to resume their studies until reforms